

CPYRGHT

CPYRGHT

organize against strip mining, a controversial issue in the region. Over the years, Ratliff has been well known as a coal operator, although he now says he has got out of the business, and that he never went in for stripping.

While they are friendly with the AV people, the McSurelys really have never had much to do formally with the organization. Alan McSurely was hired as a consultant for the month of April for about \$500, and the couple rented their home for a few days to the AVs for a training session for \$150.

At a pretrial hearing Pikeville Sheriff Perry Justice said the leading citizens of the town — the coal operators, lawyers, and members of the Chamber of Commerce — had met, before the arrests, to figure out how best to handle the unruly elements that had come into their midst.

JAMES RIDGEWAY

The New NSA

CPYRGHT

National Students Association delegates to its 20th congress had a panel discussion called "Secrecy in a Free Society: the CIA" which featured Robert Amory, former deputy director of the CIA. He said the NSA never came across with any useful intelligence anyhow. The Students for a Democratic Society refused to pay their fees and convened their own "counter-congress" in the basement of the University of Maryland armory. Their first session was also a panel discussion called "Secrecy in a Free Society: the CIA."

The congress empathized on the lawns, passed radical but unimplementable legislation, and elected new officers from the ranks of the old officers. The delegates passed resolutions favoring Black Power and abolition of the draft. NSA cannot lobby Congress, or state legislatures, because of its tax-exempt status. Any attempt to do so would cause it to lose the foundation contributions which count for 40 percent of its post-CIA \$750,000 budget. (The rest of its money comes from various federal agencies.) Presidential runner-up (and "unwitting") Sam Brown said of NSA legislation: "Well, by and large last year's resolutions weren't violated."

The Michigan delegation announced a religious service, lit incense and distributed flowers.

The congress cost \$25,000. NSA's new president is Edward Schwartz, formerly the "witting" vice president. To get elected, Schwartz made a deal with the protest candidate, Susan Baumann. She released her votes to Schwartz on condition that he push through a "grass-roots" restructuring plan. It calls for remaking NSA into two corporations: a service organization funded by foundation grants, and a self-supporting lobby. The money to support the political arm of the

NSA would come from a 50-cent head tax levied on students in member schools. Unfortunately, nobody has thought of any ways of convincing students they should contribute money. But, all things considered, NSA is stronger than before. "A vote against me," said Schwartz after his election, "was a reaction against the CIA." Sixty colleges responded to the CIA disclosure by joining the NSA.

NEAL WHITE

X-ray Exposures

CPYRGHT

In the pre World War II generation, some physicians treated acne with X-rays, irradiated children's tonsils instead of removing them and generally employed X-ray machines for a variety of serious and trivial ailments without knowing the long-term effects of such exposure. A few months ago, a research group at the University of California Medical Center analyzed the records of patients over the past 45 years and found the incidence of thyroid cancer to have increased at "an unprecedented rate." During the twenties, two percent of patients suspected of having nodular goiter were found to have cancer. That proportion rose to 15 percent in such patients for the decade 1955-1965. Similar findings have come from the New York State Department of Health. The evidence shows a strong connection with profligate use of X-radiation a generation ago.

Knowledge of the physical and genetic effects of X-radiation has advanced significantly in the postwar era. So has the use of X-rays, with over 150 million pictures taken last year. So has the technology to get better pictures with lower dosage. Nevertheless, while the benefits of X-rays are immediate and well-publicized, the costs are long-range and largely covered up — to the extent they are known. Only now is institutionalized silence over X-radiation exposure about to give way to the first, comprehensive scrutiny in a public forum. This week, the Senate Commerce Committee begins a series of hearings, chaired by Sen. E. L. Bartlett (D, Alaska), on ionizing radiation hazards of electronic products. Attention will be directed to the condition of over 200,000 medical and dental X-ray machines. Various professional groups have been reluctant to recognize candidly the real dangers and to go about reducing them.

A key expert witness before the committee is Dr. Karl Morgan, director of Health Physics at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Dr. Morgan's data and findings pose a serious challenge to the posture and policies of the dental, medical and radiological professions and their influence on the US Public Health Service. His studies conclude that:

Medical and dental exposure accounts for about 90

ORGL NSA